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Equal Rights

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SATURDAY,
MARCH 15, 1924

Drawn by Nina E. Allender

GHOSTS

NOTES OF THE WEEK

French Women Need the Vote

La Francaise, organ of the National Council of French Women, in its number of February 16 reports the opening of a course given at the College de France by Professor Georges Renard on woman's work in present-day France. In giving his reasons for choosing this subject M. Renard spoke of the great difference the war had made in woman's position in France as well as in other countries. It revealed the tremendous work accomplished by French women of all classes, but often unappreciated, and it brought the women themselves out of their isolated position and induced them to form clubs and associations for many different objects and to work together for the common good. By her work the French woman has won her economic, civil and intellectual emancipation, according to Professor Renard, and there yet remains but one more step to be taken. She should have her political emancipation "which will not only insure her right to co-operate for political justice, but will prevent a return of the exploitation which she has suffered for so long."

British Women Receive Favorable Votes

ON February 29 the British House of Commons passed the second reading of the bill extending the franchise to all women of England at the age of twenty-one. The vote was 288 to 72.

The laborites favor the measure, as do a great number of liberals, whose election manifestos declared in favor of treating women on an equality with men.

Miss Dorothea Jewson, labor member for Norwich, in her maiden speech, seconded the measure, urging the House of Commons to follow in the footsteps of the British overseas possessions, such as Canada and New Zealand, and even some of the eastern territories, such as Madras, Bombay and Burma, in giving an equal franchise to women.

Turkish Women Demand Reforms

THE newspapers of the past few months have contained numerous references to the energy displayed by the Turkish women in their efforts to obtain political and economic recognition.

In the *Manchester Guardian* of England, January 5, appears an account from a correspondent of that paper from Constantinople of a meeting of 400 Turkish women of the educated class demanding the abolition of polygamy, and the reform of the marriage and divorce system on modern lines. While polygamy has not been practiced for twenty years, existing laws authorize it, and it is now urged that such laws should give way to the modern conceptions of the rights of women.

Objects of the National Council of Italian Women

IN its issue for January 15-31 the *Attivita Femminile Sociale,* organ of the National Council of Italian Women, gives a brief account of the Council, now in its twenty-first year of useful life. Any women's organizations or individual women may join the Council, irrespective of religious or political faith. Its aim is to secure legal and administrative reforms and to create public opinion in favor of the questions most intimately concerning women as mothers, workers and citizens; to assist all undertakings for bettering the moral, legal and economic position of women; to offer its members the chance for a wide interchange of ideas, and to act as the exponent of women's views on the problems which concern the moral and civil progress of society. The program of the Council includes assistance for mothers and children, education, work against the white slave trade, hygiene, labor conditions and the civil and political education of women. It has held a number of conferences, and has accomplished a certain amount of welfare work, such as the establishment of a corps of visiting nurses, and it has petitioned the Government for various laws on woman and child labor and for other objects, including the eligibility of women for government positions, and for woman suffrage.

Women of Egypt Active in Reforms

The Vote, official paper of the Woman's Freedom League of England, in its issue of February 15 contains a reference to the recent successes of the Egyptian Women's Society. This society, which has been in existence only three years, secured the approval by the Council of Ministers of the law fixing the minimum marriage age for boys at eighteen and for girls at sixteen years.

Abolition of child marriage is only one of the many reforms which Egyptian women are seeking. Others include equal educational opportunities for boys and girls, modification of the present Moslem laws of divorce and more efficient means for the suppression of the white slave traffic.

Swiss Women Wish for the Franchise

THE *Schweizer Frauenblatt,* organ of the Swiss Federation of Women's Clubs, in its issue of February 16, calls attention to the fact that 270,000 women are employed in factories in Switzerland, and that in all 516,000 working women are contributing to Swiss national production, and asks its readers whether it is just that under these circumstances women should have no voice in determining hours of work. It calls upon all to work for woman suffrage.

Women to Direct School in Salvador

THE Salvadorean School Association of Salvador was made a national institution by a decree October 29, 1923.

The *Bulletin of the Pan-American Union* for March explains that this step was taken in order to protect not only the child, but the teacher and for the general welfare of the schools. The association is to be under the direction of women, who will supervise all matters of health, sanitary conditions and aid in securing prompt payment of salaries to teachers. Under a general committee will be department committees. The Government will provide a fixed amount for the support of the association.

Progressive Chile

A BILL recently introduced into the Legislature of Chile throws an interesting light on the present position of women in that country. The new rights to be granted women are that of being appointed guardians to their own children or to other children, that of appearing as witnesses, that of holding property in their own names if they are married, that of receiving pay for their work. The movement for women's rights in Chile was undertaken by the women of the middle classes who have for some time been employed in industry and commerce and in the railroads. Stenography courses have been open for them.

Discriminations in Algiers

A LETTER from a member of the National Woman's Party contains the following paragraph:

> "Algiers is interesting but depressing. My first glimpse of the Orient with veiled women. All of the work seems to be done by women, even the stone work on the roads, while apparently the men 'just sit.' Even the little children are treated differently, according to sex. The boys go to school, while the wee girls go to rug factories, where their little fingers tie the knots which make the rugs. It is just too awful."

Women in the Courts

IN an article by Judge Florence E. Allen of the Court of Common Pleas, in Cleveland, Ohio, appearing in *The Jewish Woman,* the paper of the National Council of Jewish Women, is the following paragraph:

> "But I want to say to you that if the ballot had brought nothing to pass except the entrance of women into the courts, as lawyers, as prosecutors, as judges and as jurors, the enfranchisement of women would have been amply justified."

LOBBYING IN WASHINGTON

LOBBYING for the Equal Rights Amendment is acting as a magnet to women from far and near, drawing them to the Washington Headquarters of the Woman's Party. Sensing a duty, women who have forfeited pay envelopes that they might see their Congressmen about the amendment, have circled the House and Senate office buildings, side by side with women who have put winters in California and Florida, and even trips along the Mediterranean, out of mind.

Maud Younger, Congressional Chairman of the Woman's Party, is in charge of the lobbying at National Headquarters. Under her direction, every effort is being made to secure pledges from all members of Congress to vote for the amendment. Practically everyone who comes to Headquarters these days comes to lobby. Even if they are in Washington but one day, Miss Younger sends them to see their Representative in Congress to ask their support of the Amendment.

Washington Daily News.

LEADERS IN THE CAMPAIGN ON CONGRESS

Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, President of the Woman's Party; Alice Paul, Vice-President; Maud Younger, Congressional Chairman.

Since the lobbying is one of the most important parts of the Equal Rights campaign at the present time, the members of the Woman's Party are making an effort to come to Washington for this work. Among the recent recruits to Miss Younger's lobbying army are Mrs. A. R. Colvin of St. Paul, member of the Minnesota State Committee of the Woman's Party; Rowena Dashwood Graves of Colorado Springs, national organizer; Dorothy Buck of Chicago, one of the youngest of the lobbyists and the daughter of Robert Buck, editor of the *New Majority;* Mrs. Donald R. Hooker of Baltimore, Maryland State Chairman of the Woman's Party; Mrs. Gertrude James Robey of Purcellville, Va., member of the Virginia State Committee of the Woman's Party; Heath Jones of Wilmington, Del.; Mrs. Amelia Himes Walker of Baltimore, member of Maryland State Committee of the Woman's Party; Elsie Hill of Reading, Conn., chairman of the National Council of the Woman's Party; Edith Ainge of Jamestown, N. Y., National Treasurer of the Woman's Party; Janet Hills of Cleveland, national organizer; Mrs. Frances Lane Glassell of Colorado Springs, a Founder of the Woman's Party; Gail Laughlin, Portland, Maine, national vice-chairman; Miss Sally Hovey, Portsmouth, N. H., a Founder, and Mrs. Jessica Henderson, Brookline, Mass., a Founder.

Mrs. Florence Etheridge Cobb, Oklahoma chairman of the Woman's Party, has recently arrived at the National Headquarters to interview the members of Congress from her State. Representative E. B. Howard of the First District of Oklahoma was the first member of Congress from Oklahoma interviewed. He expressed his approval of the Equal Rights measure and said: "I am in favor of the amendment. I note there is some opposition, but it is very much the same as it was to suffrage. Women should not only have the right of suffrage, but all their rights."

Not only are these personal appeals being made to every Senator and Representative, but letters and telegrams are being sent daily from all parts of the country to urge support of the Lucretia Mott Amendment. During the lobbying campaign women representing every profession and occupation are sending Equal Rights petitions to their Congressmen. A letter sent by the Governor of Ohio to the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives is among the most interesting of these recent appeals.

The letter reads:

"March 4, 1924.

"Judiciary Committee, House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.:

> "Gentlemen—It is my belief that the Equal Rights Amendment now before Congress should be submitted as speedily as possible to legislatures of the various States, inasmuch as this is the only democratic way of enabling the people of the country to pass upon this important question.
>
> "Very truly yours,
> (Signed) "VIC DONAHEY,
> "Governor of Ohio."

Resolutions in support of the amendment are also being sent to members of Congress and to the President. Among the resolutions which have recently arrived is one from the Woman's National League for Americanization, whose Headquarters is in Philadelphia. The resolution sent to Congress by this organization reads:

> "The Woman's National League for Americanization, through its president, desires to express its acquiesence in and its endorsement of the 'bill' now before Congress to secure for the women of our country complete equality of opportunity in the affairs of life and so to completely abolish the sex line, which strongly exists against them, as women, to the detriment of those desiring justice of such equality of opportunity.
>
> "This measure is recommended to your favorable consideration."

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

(Senate Joint Resolution Number 21.
House Joint Resolution Number 75.)

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation"

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1923, by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURTIS.

Introduced in the House of Representatives, December 13, 1923, by REPRESENTATIVE D. R. ANTHONY.

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ANNUAL DUES	$10.00
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	$1.00
FOUNDERS	$100.00
LIFE MEMBERS	$1,000.00
ENDOWERS	$5,000.00

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INDUSTRIAL EQUALITY

IT is urged by the opponents of the Equal Rights Amendment that woman is weaker than man physically and that therefore the law should fix shorter hours for women than for men in certain industries; should forbid night work for women, but not for men, in some occupations; should establish a minimum wage for women, but not for men; and should make various other regulations applying to the labor of women, but not to the labor of men. Our opponents argue that unequal legal restrictions upon men and women establish a real equality between men and women.

This is curious reasoning and quite the reverse of the method used in equalizing competitors in contests of physical skill or strength. In athletic events the handicap limitation is put upon the stronger, swifter, more skilled contestant in order to establish an equality of opportunity for the less proven, possibly weaker entrants.

Men and women wage-earners today must enter the competitive race for jobs in order to get a living. If it be true that women are physically inferior to men, they should certainly not have additional handicaps put upon them in earning a living. If only one sex is to be subject to legislation limiting the service which its members can offer the employer, it should be the alleged stronger male competitor and not the weaker female competitor.

Welfare laws "for females only" prevent women as a class from offering their labor on terms as advantageous to the employer as those on which men offer their labor. Women under these restrictive laws are at a disadvantage similar to that of a very small labor union group in an open shop community. The non-union men in an open town can underbid the small group of union men who offer their labor on terms of shorter hours, better pay and better standards than the non-union group offer. The so-called "protective" laws applying to women, but not to men in industry, put men in the position of "scabbing" on women.

Let us make industrial laws which will establish for all adult employes, men and women alike, a minimum of decent, human, laboring conditions, such as both men and women ought to have. Then men and women will be on an equal plane in competing for paid work and they will be on an equal plane with regard to the conditions under which they labor. This is a much better way to establish equality between the sexes than to make special labor laws applying only to women.

A LACK OF DISCRIMINATION

IN days gone by we were frequently told that we did not need the vote because our husbands could adequately represent us in matters of government. To those of us who were unmarried, this argument seemed, to say the least, fallacious. With the winning of the franchise we hoped that we should no longer hear people taking it for granted that all women were born married, but the situation is worse, rather than better, since the vote was won. Now it is assumed that all women in industry are not only married, but are mothers, or are about to become so.

The plea for special protective legislation for women only is based on the assumption that the maternal function incapacitates women for free competition in the industrial field. This takes for granted motherhood as a constant corollary to womanhood and presupposes, if we are to take the words of the opposition for what they really mean, that all women in industry are pregnant nearly, if not all, the time. To standardize legislation for all women, married and unmarried, mothers and non-mothers, on the basis of the needs of the pregnant woman is as absurd as it would be to standardize legislation for all men on the assumption that appendicitis was chronic and constant in all males. The pregnant woman differs essentially in her physiological needs from the non-pregnant woman. Her case must be covered just as the case of the injured soldier must be covered—by special consideration. But to class all women in her special group is to throw reason to the winds and justice into the discard.

It would not seem to require great powers of observation to learn that great numbers of women in industry never marry and never become mothers, yet the opposition to Equal Rights appears to lack sufficient discrimination to comprehend this fact.

EQUALITY OR PROTECTION

By Crystal Eastman.

The following article is reprinted from "Time and Tide," London, England, January 18.

Crystal Eastman, who is at present living in England, is a member of the National Woman's Party, and an Associate Editor of Equal Rights.

A GOOD deal of tyranny goes by the name of protection. For example, there is a law in Connecticut, one of the eastern American states, which reads:

"No public restaurant, cafe, dining-room, barber shop, hair-dressing or manicuring establishment or photograph gallery shall employ any minor under sixteen years of age or any woman, between the hours of 10 o'clock in the evening and 6 o'clock in the morning."

Classification of Women

For a woman engaged in these pursuits there may be as much insult and injury in such a law as there was for all women in the pre-suffrage classification of minors, idiots, criminals and women as persons denied a voice in democratic government. And this law is not peculiar to the State of Connecticut nor to the United States of America. It is quite usual to prohibit night work for women in advanced industrial countries. It is one of the most commonly advocated industrial "reforms." Yet it is not maintained that women's lungs are more susceptible to the night air than the lungs of men, or that women's eyes are more injuriously affected by artificial light than the eyes of men. If this were true, we must begin by legislating against the full work-basket which the working-class mother takes up by lamp-light after her children are asleep and the dishes of the last meal are washed and put away.

Dangers of the Dark

No, the implication of such laws is really a moral one—women must not be allowed to work after dark lest they succumb to the dangers of the midnight streets. Although it must be obvious that in the agitation preceding the enactment of such laws the zeal of the reformers would be second to the zeal of the highly paid night-workers who are anxious to hold their trade against an invasion of skilled women.

To this sort of interference with her working life the modern woman can have but one attitude: *I am not a child.* I will have none of your protection.

But all the so-called protective legislation for women is not so indefensible. A great deal can be said for minimum wage laws and laws limiting the hours of labor for women on the ground that woman's labor is the least adapted to organization and therefore the most easily exploited and most in need of legislative protection. Less can be said for the type of law which prohibits certain trades to women on the ground of their physical inferiority. The danger that women will rush in large numbers into trades for which they are by constitution manifestly unfit is not so great as the danger that such a principle of sex prohibition once admitted in the law will be used by the influence of powerful unions to keep women out of trades for which they are manifestly fit.

Equality Versus Protection

Sooner or later in every industrial country where women have won the franchise this vexed question of equality versus protection is bound to arise. The good suffragist, after she has won her vote, takes one long night's rest, awakes refreshed and eager, and begins to look around for equal opportunities in every field of human endeavor. On the very first corner she meets the earnest reformer, who stops her, saying, "My dear you must not ask for Equal Rights in industry. If you do, what will become of this whole body of labor law which I have built up by years and years of patient effort to protect a weaker sex from the extreme rigors of industrial competition? Is all my work to be wasted?"

The Equal Rights Amendment

This is no idle rhetorical question. It is a very real question indeed. To meet it and answer it with courage and consistency and yet with sympathy and sound practical human judgment may well be the major concern of feminists for the next decade. In America, with the introduction in Congress last December of the Lucretia Mott amendment—(*Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction*)—a battle royal has commenced. The amendment, sponsored, of course, by the younger and more militant element led by Alice Paul and the Woman's Party, was hardly 24 hours old before every member of Congress received a letter protesting in the strongest terms against it, signed by the official representatives of seven other national women's organizations, all of the more solid, more established, more distinctly humanitarian type.

The leading spirit in this opposition is Florence Kelley, founder and secretary of the National Consumers' League, known the world over as a passionate advocate of protective laws for women and children in industry, an exceedingly forceful, almost violent personality, a born fighter, and a leader as devoted and able in her generation as Alice Paul in hers. Thus at its beginning the battle is dramatized in the figures of these two lion-hearts.

The Claim of the Opposition

To the claim of these seven opposing societies that the amendment is not supported by any national organization except the one that proposed it, the Woman's Party replies: "When Susan B. Anthony introduced the National Suffrage amendment in 1878, few women supported it." To the objection that the Equal Rights amendment "would endanger existing statutes providing a 48-hour week, eight or nine or ten hour day and other industrial standards governing the employment of women," the reply is:

The Answer to the Opposition

"The Equal Rights amendment would not affect existing labor legislation, except to establish the principle that industrial legislation should apply to all workers, both men and women, in any given occupation and not to women workers alone. Examples of states where labor legislation already applies to both sexes are Oregon, where there is a 10-hour law for both men and women employes in mills, factories and manufacturing establishments, and Florida, which requires seats for both men and women employes in stores."

Time on the Side of Equal Rights

"It may be," the official organ concludes, "that the Woman's Party now stands alone for the Equal Rights amendment—but time is on our side and as the principle of Equal Rights in the suffrage field has at last prevailed, just as surely will the principle of Equal Rights for men and women be established in every field."

It behooves us to watch carefully the contest of these two ideals in American legislation. For the issue will be raised before long on this side. The time will come when British women will have to do some hard thinking and declare their faith in this matter.

EQUAL RIGHTS HEARING IN ALBANY

THE demand that whatever legislation is enacted concerning the working hours and wages of women be applied equally to men was made by representatives of the National Woman's Party February 26 on the Strauss-Rosenman 48-hour week bill and the Reiburn-Hamill Minimum Wage bill, for women and minors in industry, conducted in the assembly chamber of the Senate and assembly labor and industries committees. "The best hearing I ever attended," according to Senator Nathan Straus, Jr.

Doris Stevens presided over the representatives of the National Woman's Party. In her opening remarks she said:

"Gentlemen, you will have presented to you today three conflicting groups of opinion. On the one hand you will hear those who believe that women in industry should continue in the status in which they now are—continue under man-made legislation and regulation—a status of inferiority—a situation dominated by men. On the other hand, you will hear those who believe that women should have equality of opportunity and right in all other departments of life except in the industrial field where they should have special privileges in addition to all the civil, political and social rights on which practically all women are agreed—a philosophy which tends to produce a situation dominated by women—a system which we believe to be just as undesirable as the present man-dominated system.

"In the middle road between these two groups is the Woman's Party standing for equal rights for men and women in every phase of life—equal duties and equal responsibilities as well as equal privileges.

"It seems unfortunate that we must come today to a body composed entirely of men to ask for something we believe to be to the interests of women. How many men of you would like to have a group composed solely of women sit in judgment on what you men should do in industry? * * *

By Mrs. Edward Thomas, Legislative Secretary New York Board of the Woman's Party.

"We are not a labor organization. Neither are we of that group in the world which considers the welfare of industry first and the welfare of humanity second. We take no stand on the question whether there should be legislation limiting the hours of labor. We take no position on the question of whether organization through unionizing of the workers or legislation is the best method of securing more leisure for the mass of the people, or whether by taking over the reins of the government as has been done in Russia and England. We do not prescribe any one of these three methods. But we insist that whatever method is used, there should be no discrimination between the sexes. * * * We know that some men are strong and that some women are strong, that some men are weak and that some women are weak. But because some women are too weak to compete in industry is no more reason for excluding all women, than the alleged moral frailty of some male Cabinet members is a reason for excluding all males from the Cabinet.

"We oppose a sex basis for a minimum wage law because we believe that to establish industrial laws that apply to women, but not to men, gives recognition to the idea that women are a class apart in industry who can only enter the industrial field under restrictions laid down by the Government. * * * Consequently, we move that the bills under discussion be amended to apply to adults—men as well as women; to apply to minors instead of female minors."

Mrs. Frances Roberts, chairman of the Industrial Council of the Woman's Party in New York, followed, urging from her experience as an industrial worker the necessity of getting away from the archaic custom of linking women and minors in labor legislation, stating that it always works to the disadvantage of both, and declaring that any legislation must apply to both sexes.

Mrs. Frederick R. Guest said that she had recently joined the Woman's Party because she had come to believe, from her experience in England and in the United States, that all legislation should be for the benefit of both men and women.

Mrs. Edward Thomas, legislative secretary for the New York State Branch of the National Woman's Party, spoke on the philosophy of equal rights for women, emphasizing the principle for which the Party is working.

Mrs. Mabel C. McCurrach, chairman of the Sixth Congressional District, spoke for her district.

A number of other members of the Woman's Party, representing other organizations at the hearing, spoke in favor of equal rights in industry.

Mrs. Mildred Mary Combs, Headquarters Secretary, organized this second delegation to the Legislature, which included Miss Doris Stevens, Mrs. Frederick R. Guest, Mrs. John Jay White, Mrs. Edward Thomas, Mrs. Frances Roberts, Mrs. Mabel McCurrach and others. Miss Fred Lee Woodson was in charge of arrangements in Albany.

Before attending the hearing the delegation called upon Lieutenant Governor Lunn and was most cordially received by him. Mrs. Guest was spokesman for the group.

An upstate New York Assemblyman said in the course of conversation with him on the subject of Equal Rights, that he believed in seeing the thing through to its logical conclusion, even though he was not in favor of some details of the program; furthermore, he added that he thought the Woman's Party women were the only ones who came to Albany in the interest of principles rather than expediency, and that they were more reasonable in their views.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Illinois Active for Equal Rights

THE Chicago newspapers have been featuring the recent publicity efforts of the Chicago branch of the National Woman's Party.

Flying over the city, officers of the Party showered down propaganda for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Those who cruised over the city were Dr. Frances Dickinson, Illinois State Chairman; Mrs. Bertha Moller, Minnesota Chairman, and Miss Rebecca Hourwich, National Organizer.

Intensive Organizing in Massachusetts

ANITA POLLITZER, National Secretary of the Woman's Party, is doing intensive organizing through Rhode Island and Massachusetts, with an occasional swing into New York City to attend a conference or dinner.

Headquarters for the work of the Party have been established in Boston at Tremont Temple, 88 Tremont street. Wilma Henderson, National Organizer, who is working with Miss Pollitzer, is in charge of the office. Miss Henderson spent several weeks in Washington during the winter impressing upon the Massachusetts delegation in Congress the demand growing in their State for the passage of the Lucretia Mott amendment. Her mother, Mrs. Jessica Henderson, was one of the deputation of New England women who called upon President Coolidge in February in the interest of the amendment.

Mrs. Stephen Pell of New York City, National Finance Chairman, has been in Boston in conference with the members of the Massachusetts branch of the Party

regarding ways and means of advancing the opportunities and usefulness of the Party. Plans have been made for an Equal Rights amendment dinner to be held in Boston early in March, where nationally known speakers will discuss the aims of the Party and the necessity of the immediate passage of the proposed amendment to the Constitution.

Mrs. Hilles Reaches Ohio

MRS. FLORENCE BAYARD HILLES, member of the National Council of the Woman's Party, spoke at Dayton, Ohio, on February 27 at the N. C. R. Community Hall before a distinguished audience. Mrs. Hilles told the story of her organizing trip in the interest of the Equal Rights amendment, which has included Oklahoma, Louisiana, Colorado, Texas and Arizona.

Mrs. Hilles was the guest of Mrs. Valentine Winters, herself an ardent member of the Woman's Party. Mrs. Winters, Mrs. E. W. Davis and Mrs. Cyrus Mead arranged a beautiful luncheon in honor of Mrs. Hilles at the Dayton Women's Club.

On February 28 a meeting of the Ohio branch of the National Woman's Party was held in Columbus and again Mrs. Hilles spoke of the work of the Party on her organizing trip and on the Lucretia Mott amendment.

The meeting was followed by a tea arranged by Mrs. Ivor Hughes, State Chairman; Mrs. Elsa Hasbrook, Mrs. T. C. Winckle, Mrs. R. J. Gardner, Mrs. James M. Rector and Dr. Gillette Hayden, who was Mrs. Hilles' hostess while in Columbus.

On the evening of March 3, Mabel Vernon, Executive Secretary of the National Woman's Party, spoke at a dinner of the Women's Association of Commerce in Columbus. Miss Vernon told of the activity of the Party in the interest of the Equal Rights amendment and gave a brief summary of existing laws which discriminate against women.

Detroit Women Debate Bill on Equal Rights

THE Lucretia Mott Equal Rights amendment was condemned as a menace to protective legislation and defended as a means of bringing political equality to women in a debate sponsored by the legislative department of the Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs at the federation clubhouse, February 13.

Speaking in favor of the amendment were Mrs. Arthur B. Cramer, third vice-president and congressional representative for the National Woman's Party in Michigan; Mrs. Bess M. Garner of the Detroit Branch of the National Woman's Party, and Mrs. Albertine Elliott of the legislative department of the Detroit Federation.

Opposing it were Mrs. Myron B. Vorce of the Wayne County League of Women Voters, Miss Grace Brown and Mrs. William H. Haller of Mt. Clemens.

Those speaking for the negative based their opposition on the need for protective legislation favoring mothers and women workers.

Mrs. Garner, answering for the affirmative, replied that in the World War for every man with a gun, there were men behind, and asked why women could not be among the rear forces. She cited the closing of the doors of the Detroit College of Law to women as one of the glaring injustices of the sex. There were no judges and no vote was taken by the audience.

The Detroit Branch of the National Woman's Party, at a dinner February 8 at the Fourteenth Century Club, elected officers for the year:

Detroit Chairman—Mrs. Bertha Koon.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Robert Burnham.

Treasurer—Miss Weting.

Mrs. Koon is a senior law student and successful real estate broker.

Government Workers' Council Holds Meeting and Tea

THE Government Workers' Council of the Woman's Party held a meeting and tea at National Headquarters Sunday, March 2, in honor of Mrs. Florence Etheridge Cobb, now of Oklahoma, but for seventeen years a Government worker in Washington, who has come on the invitation of the Council to assist in arranging the convention of this branch scheduled to take place early in April. Mrs. Cobb was introduced by Miss Laura Berrien, chairman of the Government Workers' Council, who in her preliminary remarks described its work during the past year and its program for the coming one. Mrs. Cobb discussed this program in detail, and outlined the methods which the Woman's Party would adopt for putting it into execution. She charged that discrimnations against women in the matter of appointment to other than low-grade positions of the higher grades, was due to the preference and prejudice of administrative officials, whose practice it is to select male applicants for all work which is of an executive, technical or scientific character. Mrs. Cobb was followed by Jessie Dell, chairman of the committee on convention arrangements, who urged co-operation among women Government employees for the protection of their interests, and their union with the National Woman's Party as the most effective agency of such protection. At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. Helen Rapley joined the Woman's Party as a Founder, and numerous other memberships were secured. Tea was served in the drawing-room, Miss Carrie Harrison presiding.

COMMENTS OF THE PRESS

Measures to Equalize Laws for Men and Women

From *Hoboken (N. J.) Hudson Observer*, February.

"THE activity of the New Jersey branch of the National Woman's Party is evident in the fact that six bills are pending to equalize the laws for men and women. One of the measures will accord to women the right to recover damages for personal injuries. In this State the husband recovers all the damages when he is injured and can also recover when his wife is injured, for the loss of her society and services, but the wife cannot sue for these losses when her husband is injured. Another bill prohibits discriminations on account of sex in the employment of teachers. Two bills relate to guardianship, making father and mother joint natural guardians with an equal right to the services and earnings of minor children.

Another measure provides for testamentary guardianship. Under the law now a father, with the consent of the mother, may, by will, appoint a guardian for a minor child, but the mother has no such authority. The bill provides that the mother has no such authority. The bill provides that the parent last dying can appoint a guardian. The fifth bill accords to a married woman the power to contract as though she was unmarried. The sixth bill gives to a married woman the right to establish her domicile in the same way as an unmarried woman for certain civil purposes—voting, office-holding, taxation, etc.—but does not affect the obligation of husband and wife to live together. With the possible exception of the sixth bill, there will be little or no opposition to these Equal Rights measures. The authority to establish her own nominal domicile should be carefully studied before it is passed."

Laws for Women

From *The Albany Evening News* (N. Y.), February 18.

"LEGISLATION concerning women occupies much attention this week in the Legislature. Equal rights and protective measures are involved and there is difference of opinion among women as to some of these.

"While all women are for Equal Rights, some of them do not feel that there should be any special protective measures for women only. It is on these questions the League of Women Voters and the National Woman's Party appear to be divided. Both are said to be in favor of a measure for jury service for women, but they are not agreed as to legislation limiting the working hours of women.

"Yet, would not compulsory jury service for women be contrary to any pro-

tective policy? It has been said that, while women are fit for jury service, jury service is not always fit for women. If that is so, compelling women to sit on juries would not coincide very well with the movement for protective legislation for women.

"Equal Rights involve equal responsibilities."

Greeks, Girls, and 1914

From *The Nation,* February 27, 1924.

"THE Greeks of the fifth and fourth centuries before Christ were not feminists. Their Olympic games were severely masculine. Women could neither be competitors nor spectators. They were not even allowed to cross the Alpheus or approach the plain of Olympia while the games were in progress. The winners of the contests were honored by the proud communities from which they came; at Athens they were supported for life at public expense. Neither the honor nor the chance to live without labor was within the reach of women. The ancient Olympic games died out in the fourth century A. D. and were not revived until 1896, when the modern international Olympics were instituted at Athens. Each fourth year since then, with the exception of 1916, the Olympic games have been held in different cities. Women are now admitted both as spectators and as contestants in women's events, but their fame is of a mild luster in spite of their popularity in the Sunday picture supplements.

"Now suddenly a new question arises: a woman has appeared who can outclass all the women in her field and all the men as well. She has done what no woman has done in all history: she has broken a world's record held by a man. No man in all the annals of sport has finished the quarter-mile back-stroke swim within five seconds of Miss Sybil Bauer's time, and naturally Miss Bauer wants to enter the regular event in the games. But on the other hand, no woman has ever been permitted to compete with men in the Olympic games. Shall Greek tradition be allowed so disastrously to lapse? After 2500 womanless years, shall a girl suddenly precipitate herself into a contest of men—and then, conceivably, thrash them? Would not great Zeus himself rumble and groan on Olympus if his games were thus finally profaned?

"Sybil Bauer's, after all, is a modest invasion of men's rights, but it invites interesting speculations. The women of Athens never had a chance to discover their skill or their muscles. The women of today have had only a few years of participation in sport, and even now an insignificant number of girls go into athletics as a vocation or even as a serious side-issue. The tradition of the girl athlete is not yet established. But if events move as fast for twenty years as they have in the twenty just past, who can say what the Olympic games will be like or how many world's records will hang at the belts of girl swimmers or hurdlers? It is not hard to imagine the *New York Times* of July 10, 1944, discussing the subject editorially. 'Sports in general,' it will say, 'and especially swimming, are fundamentally feminine pastimes, and thus it is natural that most of the prizes in the contests just concluded at Moscow should have gone to women. After all, the exercise of speed and more unthinking physical strength are not qualities that men should either desire or seek to develop. None the less, we are gratified to note that in this feminine field of endeavor our American girls have so clearly outclassed, etc.' But perhaps, in 1944, the *New York Times* editorial will be written by a woman, in which case it may be different.

Men and Women

From *Trumansburg Press* (N. Y.), February 9.

"THE man who doesn't smoke or drink or gamble and who is true to his wife is looked upon as a paragon of virtue. But the woman who doesn't smoke or drink, who is true to her husband and concentrates upon the home—why, there are so many millions of such women you wouldn't think of their achievements as anything worth noticing."

TWO MILLION DOLLAR FUND

TREASURER'S REPORT, Edith Ainge, Treasurer. Auditor, Nettie Trail, C. P. A. Receipts of National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to February 28, 1924, $1,245,600.97.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, February 28, 1924, to March 7, 1924:

Per Louisiana Branch:	
Mrs. J. G. Trimble	$ 5.00
Mrs. Otis Bullock	5.00
Mrs. O. P. Clement	5.00
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Miss Winifred Lenihan	5.00
Mrs. A. R. Jackson	.50
Mrs. Rose L. Sherwood	.50
Mrs. Clara T. McChesney	.50
Miss Anna Maxwell	.50
Sale of literature	10.00
Rent of rooms at Headquarters	290.00
Total receipts through March 6, 1924	$707.00
Total receipts, December 7, 1922, to March 7, 1924	$1,246,307.97

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